

**ABSTRACT**

The invention provides isolated agents having a core peptide selected from the group consisting of Core peptides 5 through 39 and 42 through 55, wherein the agent derepresses an IAP-inhibited caspase. Also provided is an isolated agent having a core structure selected from any of the structures shown in Figures 5, 9, 10, 14B, and 21-24, a core structure selected from the group of TPI 759, TPI 882, TPI 914 or TPI 927; and a core structure from a library selected from TPI 1391, TPI 1349, TPI 1396, TPI 1509, TPI 1540, TPI 1400, TPI 792 and TPI 1332, wherein the agent derepresses an IAP-inhibited caspase. The invention further provides a method of derepressing an IAP-inhibited caspase.